

Fiscal Year 2014 Annual Report



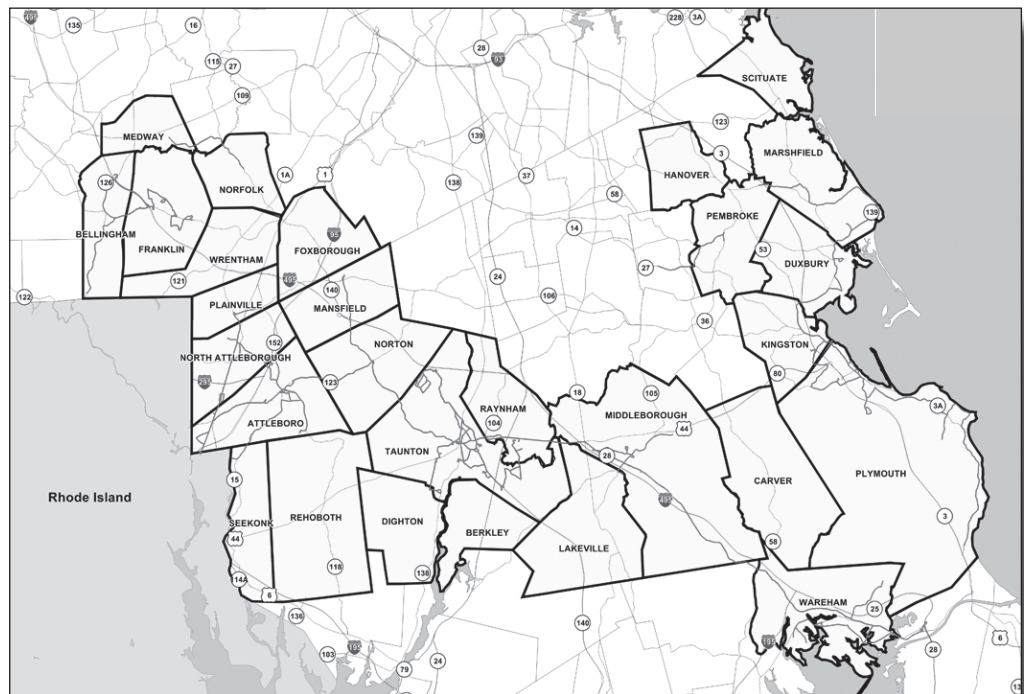
Greater Attleboro Taunton
Regional Transit Authority

10 Oak Street, Taunton, MA 02780
508-823-8828
www.gatra.org

Created in 1974 by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 161B, the **Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority** is one of the largest and more diverse regional transit authorities with 28 participating member communities taking advantage of some or all of the following services: regular fixed route buses, ADA demand response, senior Dial-A-Ride and MBTA commuter shuttles. GATRA also provides brokerage transportation services for Human Services Transportation (HST). Funding for GATRA comes from local, state and federal sources.

Attleboro
Bellingham
Berkley
Carver
Dighton
Duxbury
Foxborough
Franklin
Hanover
Kingston
Lakeville
Mansfield
Marshfield
Medway
Middleborough
Norfolk
North Attleboro
Norton
Pembroke
Plainville
Plymouth
Raynham
Rehoboth
Scituate
Seekonk
Taunton
Wareham
Wrentham

The GATRA Service Area and Participating Communities





Message from the Administrator



Fiscal Year 2014 marked another very good year for the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA) and its customers. Once again, ridership on our fixed route and paratransit services grew, delivering over 2.4 million rides in 2014, an increase of over 190,000 rides from 2013.

One of GATRA's most significant achievements in FY 14 was the grand opening of the Attleboro Intermodal Transit Center. The new transportation hub replaces the old Union Street station and is conveniently located adjacent to the Attleboro MBTA commuter rail station, making it a true multi-modal transportation center.

Another project in the design phase is the Plymouth Transportation Center. Scheduled to be completed and operational by the start of the Nation's 2020 celebration in Plymouth, this new center will house parking, local and intercity buses as well as the visitor center at the facility. It will play a major role in local transportation and economic development for the town of Plymouth.

In FY 14, GATRA also was busy purchasing new vehicles for its transit fleet as well as undertaking the construction of a new MBTA station platform and bus shelter in Wareham and planning a new fixed-route bus service in the towns of Norfolk, Wrentham and Foxborough.

As always, GATRA continues to make strides in improving our service, working with each community to ensure riders have safe, affordable and reliable service throughout the region.

Francis J. Gay

*Administrator,
Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority*





CAPITAL PROJECTS

Attleboro Intermodal Transportation Center

On November 7, 2013, GATRA and the City of Attleboro celebrated the grand opening of the Attleboro Intermodal Transportation Center. In attendance at the ribbon-cutting ceremony were Attleboro Mayor Kevin Dumas, Governor Deval Patrick, MassDOT Transportation Secretary Richard Davey, MBTA General Manager Beverly Scott, GATRA staff as well as numerous local and state representatives and dignitaries.

The gleaming new bus station — the centerpiece of the year-long construction project — officially opened to passengers on November 11, 2013. In addition to the station, the completed project features two canopied bus lanes, additional parking for commuters, ample storage for bicycles, and improved traffic and pedestrian access to the adjacent MBTA Commuter Rail station.

*Construction of
Attleboro Intermodal
Transportation Center
Completed in FY 2014*



OTHER MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF FY 2014



- ▶ **GATRA Adds New Service Stop in Norton/Mansfield** - GATRA extends the Rt.140 bus service between Wheaton College in Norton and the Mansfield MBTA station to include a new stop at the Mansfield Crossing shopping mall off School Street.
- ▶ **GATRA Administrative Offices Get Upgrades** - Design for the new administrative office, including a larger call center, was completed in FY 14. Also, upgrades to the HVAC, plumbing and electrical systems along with a new fire protection system were started with final completion of these projects slated for fall 2014.
- ▶ **Taunton Maintenance Facility** - Design for a new energy-efficient heating system was drafted and the actual construction for the system is expected to be completed in fall 2014.
- ▶ **Major Improvements in Attleboro:**
 - Streetscape sidewalk accessibility improvements to Mill and Capron Streets were made to provide a safe and accessible path to the Attleboro Commuter Rail Station and the new Attleboro Intermodal Transit Center.
 - Begun in 2009, the Union and Park Street Embankment Stabilization project, which includes transit enhancements to the inbound platform of the Attleboro Commuter Rail Station was completed in FY 14.
 - Design/construction of the future location of the city's Department of Public Works operation was completed to make room for the final phase of the Attleboro Intermodal Transportation Center.
 - Final design/permitting for Riverfront Drive and Riverfront Park was completed, allowing Riverfront Drive to connect commuters and buses from Wall and Olive Streets to the new Attleboro Intermodal Transportation Center and Commuter Rail Station.
- ▶ **New Bus Shelter in Wareham** - Construction of a new bus shelter along with parking lot and busway improvements were completed to help provide safer and better bus service to and from the Cape Flyer train service in downtown Wareham.
- ▶ **Ride Match Goes Mobile** - GATRA launched a redesigned mobile version of its popular RideMatch website. The new streamlined mobile version is designed to help individuals locate information specific to Massachusetts transportation options easily and quickly from any mobile device.
- ▶ **GATRA Expands Travel Training Services** - GATRA partnered with CO-OP Productions, Inc., a local non-profit organization serving people with disabilities since 1972, to provide Travel Training for all individuals who want to learn how to use GATRA's fixed route buses.





COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Throughout the year, GATRA participates in numerous community outreach events at area high schools and colleges, councils on aging, senior housing complexes, and YMCA health fairs. Our goal is to build awareness and promote GATRA's fixed route and dial-a-ride services to the communities we serve. In FY 14, GATRA also sponsored many promotions and community events, including:



In September, GATRA joined MassDOT, MassRIDES, and MassCommute in celebrating Massachusetts Car-Free Week. To make Car-Free Week a community-wide event, GATRA partnered with several retailers and community organizations in Attleboro and Taunton and offered activities or discounts that riders redeemed at the various locations.



National Dump the Pump Day is a day that encourages people to ride public transportation and save money, instead of driving a car. To celebrate the national transit event, GATRA bus drivers handed out FREE Dump the Pump tee-shirts to passengers.



In summer and fall, GATRA provides transportation to farmers' markets in Attleboro, Mansfield, Marshfield, Middleborough and Plymouth. To encourage people to use public transportation instead of driving to the farmers' market, GATRA gives out free shopping totes to riders.

PARTNERSHIPS



GATRA Riders!



Get Rewards for **GREENER** Trips!

nuride

Get rewards when you take transit, bike, walk, carpool, vanpool, tele-commute, or even ride the GATRA bus!

visit www.gatra.org or www.nuride.com
Enter Promo Code: BUSREWARDS

Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority Massachusetts Department of Transportation

GATRA in partnership with MassDOT and NuRide, offer riders' rewards for choosing healthier and "greener" transportation options through the NuRide program. NuRide was developed to encourage people to make greener trips and earn rewards for doing so. From riding the GATRA bus, to walking, carpooling, van pooling, and biking, this program rewards points that can be accumulated and then redeemed for retail discounts, restaurant coupons, and tickets to shows and attractions.



For the second year, GATRA partnered with the Taunton Area School to Career, Inc., to provide travel training instruction to high school students in the work-study program. Travel training instruction teaches students how to travel safely and independently using public transportation.



GATRA participates in the South East Regional Coordinating Council (SERCC), which provides an ongoing forum for open discussion where stakeholders can exchange information about transportation access issues, especially as they relate to low-income individuals, seniors, and people with disabilities. SERCC works toward increasing transportation opportunities for both our consumers and our communities.



RIDERSHIP STATISTICS

2014

	Fixed Route	Demand Response	Human Services Brokerage	Total Ridership
Annual Ridership	855,505	257,376	1,361,260	2,474,141

2013

	Fixed Route	Demand Response	Human Services Brokerage	Total Ridership
Annual Ridership	837,733	242,055	1,202,702	2,282,490

2012

	Fixed Route	Demand Response	Human Services Brokerage	Total Ridership
Annual Ridership	809,140	232,320	1,123,269	2,164,729

Fixed Route by Service Area

Unlinked Passenger Trips

Attleboro/Taunton	519,839
Plymouth Area Link (PAL)	121,001
Marshfield/Duxbury/Kingston (SAIL)	40,584
Onset Wareham Link (OWL)	101,760
Franklin Area Bus (FAB)	10,451
Norton/Mansfield Route 140	30,148
Bellingham Commuter Shuttle	4,789
Medway Commuter Shuttle	11,641
Middleborough Downtown Shuttle	11,554
Pembroke Commuter Shuttle	3,738
Total Fixed Route	855,505

Demand Response by Town

Unlinked Passenger Trips

United Dial-A-Ride (Foxboro, Franklin, Norfolk, Wrentham)	16,728
Attleboro/Taunton	107,669
Bellingham	6,042
Carver	6,359
Duxbury	7,120
Hanover	4,840
Kingston	5,896
Lakeville	2,425
Mansfield	8,087
Mansfield Connection Service	15,095
Marshfield	4,559
Medway	2,037
Middleborough	7,969
Pembroke	7,348
Plainville	2,729
Plymouth	26,599
Scituate	4,949
Wareham	18,058
Wrentham	2,867
Total Demand Response	257,376

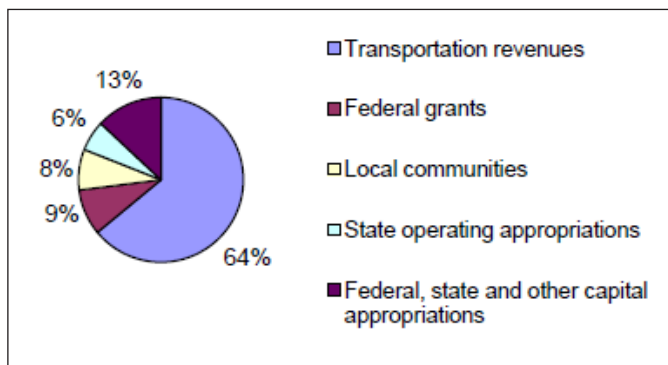




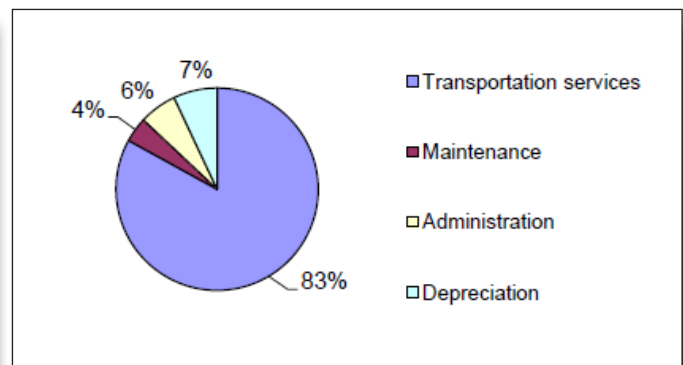
FINANCE

The revenues and expenses by source for GATRA operations for the period ending June 30, 2014 are delineated in the following graphs:

Revenues by Source:



Expenses by Source:



Financial Ratios

“Working Capital” is the amount by which current assets exceed current liabilities. The Current Ratio, which compares current assets to current liabilities, is an indicator of the ability to pay current obligations.

	2014	2013
Working Capital	\$ 8,063,000	\$ 10,694,000
Current Ratio	2:1	3:1

The working capital and current ratio indicate that the Authority has an excellent ability to meet current obligations.

“Liabilities to Net Position” indicates the extent of borrowing.

	2014	2013
Liabilities to Net Position	86%	90%

This decrease in “Liabilities to Net Position” was caused primarily by an increase in the amount invested in capital assets included in the net position balance.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS & RECOMMENDATIONS



Senate Votes to Approve Legislation:

In July 2013, the Senate voted to approve Governor Patrick's Transportation Finance Bill that will fund more than \$800 million into the state's transit agencies by fiscal year 2018. Most important, the Bill provided for Forward Funding of State Contract Assistance for the RTAs starting in FY 2015 as well as additional operating assistance to expand RTA services.

Another major component of the financing legislature was the legislature's indexing future gas tax increases based on inflation. This would continue to generate extra revenue which would be used not only for highway projects but also to finance both capital and operating expansions of the regional transit authorities' program. This provision has been proposed to be repealed by a referendum vote in November 2014. The impact of a repeal of the indexing of the gas tax will have negative effects on the regional transit authorities' program as a whole. At this point, we do not know the outcome of the funding program if the index does not pass a general vote. GATRA and the other RTA partners, which comprise the Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities, continue to work closely with the legislature to ensure that public transportation services outside of the Boston area receive recognition and necessary funding to be able to compete with and become a viable alternative for people to travel in their respective communities.

Comprehensive Planning:

Also outline in the Transportation Finance Bill passed by the state legislature in FY 2013, all RTAs are required to complete a Comprehensive Regional Transit Plan by June 2015. In addition, each RTA is required to have on community rider representative and one disabled rider representative on its Advisory Board. The goal of the Bill is to increase transparency and accountability, and to provide a continued dialogue on transportation investment.

GATRA has partnered with several other regional transit authorities to hire a national consulting firm to undertake the regional transit plan. The plan will build upon the other regional transportation plans for the area and provide a road map for GATRA to use to expand future mass transit services throughout its 28 member communities. This planning effort will involve a number of public meetings to discuss various transit expansion proposals.

The kickoff for the study was held in April and planning work is ongoing. Public meetings will begin in the fall 2014 and continue until spring 2015 when the plan is expected to be finalized.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

COMMUNITY

Attleboro
Bellingham
Berkley
Carver
Dighton
Duxbury
Foxborough
Franklin
Hanover
Kingston
Lakeville
Mansfield
Marshfield
Medway
Middleboro
Norfolk
No. Attleboro
Norton
Pembroke
Plainville
Plymouth
Raynham
Rehoboth
Scituate
Seekonk
Taunton
Wareham
Wrentham

ELECTED OFFICIAL

Mayor Kevin Dumas
Mike Connor
George F. Miller
Michael J. O'Donnell, Jr.
Dean Cronin
David J. Madigan
Mark Sullivan
Robert Vallee
Joseph R. Salvucci
Elaine A. Fiore
Scott T. Belliveau
Jess Aptowitz
Matthew J. McDonough
Glenn Trindade
Stephen J. McKinnon
Robert J. Garrity
Paul J. Belham, Sr.
Robert W. Kimball
Willard J. Boulter, Jr.
Andrea Soucy
Mathew J. Muratore
Joseph R. Pacheco
Susan M. Pimental
Shawn Harris
Nelson Almeida
Mayor Thomas C. Hoye
Peter W. Teitelbaum
Joseph F. Botaish

DESIGNEE

Mayor Kevin Dumas
Laura DeMattia, COA Director
Linda Howerton, Selectman
Carole Julius, COA Director
Alice Souza, COA Director
Joanne Moore, COA Director
Vicki Lowe, COA Director
Andrew Bissanti, Town Council Member
Anthony Marino, Dir. of Community Services
Dennis Randall, Selectman
Rita Garbit, Town Administrator
Gale Farrugia, COA Director
Paul Halkiotis, Town Planner
Missy Dziczek, COA Director
Andrea Priest, COA Director
Jack Hathaway, Town Administrator
Mark Fisher, Town Administrator
Richard Leitch
Hilary Wilson, Liason
Leland Ross, COA Board Member
Patrick O'Brien, Facility & Special Events Mgr.
Elizabeth Moura, COA Director
Norella Palmer, COA Director
Linda Hayes, COA Director
Bernie Huck, COA Director
Mayor Thomas C. Hoye
Susan Green, Town Admin. Asst.
Janet Angelico, COA Director

Disabled Rider Community Representative
Rider Community Representative

Erin Ferry of Dighton, MA
Pending